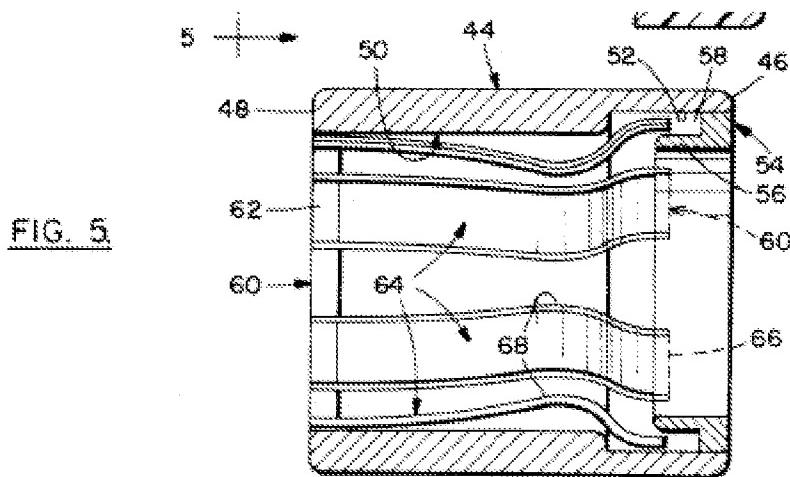


REMARKS

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,628 to Hawkins (“Hawkins”).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a substantially U-shaped connector clip and to include limitations from canceled claim 2. Similarly, claim 16 has been amended. In the rejection of both claim 2 and claim 17, the basis set forth for the rejections considered only the recited limitations of a front end connection port and arms that extend perpendicular to the central axis along which the channel extends. The limitations set forth in the claims of an aperture to receive the connector clip and positioning of the deflection portion within the aperture were completely disregarded. As such the rejection is faulty as being incomplete.

Amended claims 1 and 16 recite the limitations ignored in claims 2 and 17. Considering the ignored limitations, there can be no dispute that Hawkins is without a connector clip aperture in the housing connector block that provides side access to the channel that receives the proximal end of the lead. As seen in Hawkins, the connector block does not have a side access aperture to the channel.



Further, there can be no dispute that Hawkins is without a deflection portion spanning across a side access aperture. The structure in Hawkins identified as the “deflection portion” is an annular flange 56 that does not span across any opening. Yet further, in Hawkins, the free ends of the arms do not extend perpendicular to the central axis as the connector clip is positioned within the channel via the connector clip aperture. Only the intermediate portion of the arms and not their free ends are characterized as extending perpendicular to the central axis of the channel.

Claims 1 and 16 clearly distinguish over Hawkins. As such, claims 1-30 are patentable over Hawkins.

The provisional rejections of the claims on the basis of judicially created obviousness typed double patenting based upon Application Nos. 10/632,058 and 10/632,026 are noted. Both of those applications are still pending, and claims have not yet been allowed in either case. Therefore, response to the provisional rejections is not necessary at this time.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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